

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 3B, reference numeral --14-- has been added to indicate the conveyance roller.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to because conveyor roller 14 is not shown.

Fig. 3B has been amended to provide reference numeral --14-- to indicate the conveyance roller to overcome this objection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this drawing change and reconsider and withdraw this drawing objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of some informalities.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasahara et al. (USP 5,204,716). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kasahara discloses, in Fig. 1, paper cassettes loaded with a stack of paper S, separating rollers 120 and 121, and paper guide SG.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the paper guide SG corresponds to the "guide means" recited in the rejected claims of the present application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Kasahara, the paper guide does not have “predetermined regions and a remaining region, such that the recording medium make contact only with the remaining region and not with the predetermined regions.” Accordingly, Kasahara does not disclose or suggest the “guide means” as recited in independent claims 1 and 6.

Claims 2-4, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 7-9, dependent on claim 6, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi (JP 1-75050). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the retard roller 10 shown in Fig. 2 corresponds to the “guide means” of the claimed invention of the present application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As shown in Fig. 2, the retard roller 10 is a roller. Therefore, in Takagi, the retard roller 10 is not “a plate-like member.” Accordingly, Takagi does not disclose or suggest the “guide means” as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 10.

Claims 2-4, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 7-9, dependent on claim 6, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

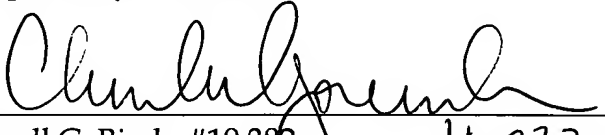
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Rd, Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: One (1) Replace Drawing Sheet - Figs. 3A & 3B